

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nathaniel C. Wilks (Reg. No. 62,867) on 6 may 2009.

This application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Replace claim 1, 11 and 20 – 23 as follows.

Claim 1

→ Last limitation:

a transmission unit that reads out said expansion data accepted by said selection acceptance unit from said expansion data storage unit, and transmits said expansion data together with said password to said apparatus via said network.

Claim 11

A robot apparatus comprising:

a data storage unit that stores a program of performing a predetermined function;

an execution unit that executes said program;

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a communication unit including at least one of a sound generator and an image display unit;

~~a receiving unit that receives expansion data that expands said function from a data supply device;~~

an update unit that stores ~~said~~ expansion data received by said receiving unit in said data storage unit thus to add a new program or modify said program;

a decision unit that decides whether a condition that permits accepting said expansion data is satisfied;

a password storage unit that stores a password associated with ~~said~~ a plurality of said expansion data acquirable under each such condition, to be used when receiving said expansion data from ~~said~~ a data supply device; and a password acquisition unit that makes access to said password storage unit and obtains said password for said expansion data corresponding to said decided condition;

wherein said password obtained by said password acquisition unit is output to a user via said communication unit;

a receiving unit that receives said expansion data together with said password that expands said predetermined function from said data supply device.

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Claim 20

A data supply device comprising:

a connector for connection via a network to an apparatus that executes a program of performing a predetermined function;

an expansion data storage unit that stores a plurality of expansion data that expands a function of said apparatus;

a table storage unit that stores a table on which said plurality of expansion data and said password are associated with each other;

a password acceptance unit that accepts an input of said password by a user;

a presentation unit that makes access to said table storage unit to obtain said plurality of expansion data corresponding to said password accepted by said password acceptance unit, and presents said expansion data to said user;

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a selection acceptance unit that accepts said expansion data selected by said user out of said plurality of expansion data presented by said presentation unit; and
a transmission unit that reads out said expansion data accepted by said selection acceptance unit from said expansion data storage unit, and transmits said expansion data together with said password to said apparatus via said network.

Claim 21

A data update method of controlling a data structure of an apparatus by transmitting, via a network, expansion data from a data supply device including an expansion data storage unit that stores a plurality of expansion data, to said apparatus including a data storage unit that stores a program that performs a predetermined function and an execution unit that executes said program, comprising:

deciding, in said apparatus including a password storage unit that stores a password, associated with said plurality of expansion data acquirable under each condition that permits accepting said expansion data and to be used when receiving said expansion data from said data supply device, whether said condition is satisfied;

making access to said password storage unit and obtaining said password for said expansion data corresponding to said decided condition; and

outputting to a user said password obtained at said step of obtaining said password;

~~accepting, in said data supply device including a table storage unit that stores a table on which said plurality of expansion data and said password are associated with each other, an input of said password by said user;~~

accepting an input of said password by said user;

making access to said table storage unit and obtaining said plurality of expansion data corresponding to said password accepted by said password acceptance unit;

presenting said plurality of expansion data to said user;

accepting said expansion data selected by said user out of said presented plurality of expansion data; and

reading out said accepted expansion data from said expansion data storage unit, and transmitting said expansion data to said apparatus via said network;

receiving, in said apparatus, said expansion data together with said password that expands said function from said data supply device; and

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storing said received expansion data in said data storage unit, thus adding a new program or updating said program.

Claim 22

→ Last limitation:

a transmission unit that reads out said expansion data accepted by said selection acceptance unit from said expansion data storage unit, and transmits said expansion data together with said password to said robot apparatus via said network.

Claim 23

→ Last 4th – limitation:

reading out said accepted expansion data from said expansion data storage unit, to transmit said expansion data together with said password to said apparatus via said network, and

a program that allows said apparatus to execute steps of:

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 23 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations recited in claims 1, 11 and 20 – 23 (& associated dependent claims).

The present invention is directed to a data update method of controlling a data structure of an apparatus by transmitting, via a network, expansion data from a data supply device including an expansion data storage unit that stores a plurality of expansion data, to said apparatus including a data storage unit that stores a program that performs a predetermined function and an execution unit that executes said program, that comprises deciding, in said

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apparatus including a password storage unit that stores a password, associated with said plurality of expansion data acquirable under each condition that permits accepting said expansion data and to be used when receiving said expansion data from said data supply device, whether said condition is satisfied; making access to said password storage unit and obtaining said password for said expansion data corresponding to said decided condition; and outputting to a user said password obtained at said step of obtaining said password; accepting, in said data supply device including a table storage unit that stores a table on which said plurality of expansion data and said password are associated with each other; accepting an input of said password by said user. No singular art disclosing, nor motivation to combine has been found to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention of making access to said table storage unit and obtaining said plurality of expansion data corresponding to said password accepted by said password acceptance unit; presenting said plurality of expansion data to said user; accepting said expansion data selected by said user out of said presented plurality of expansion data; and reading out said accepted expansion data from said expansion data storage unit, and transmitting said expansion data to said apparatus via said network; receiving, in said apparatus, said expansion data together with said password that expands said function from said data supply device; and storing said received expansion data in said data storage unit, thus adding a new program or updating said program.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LONGBIT CHAI whose telephone number is (571)272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Longbit Chai/

Primary Patent Examiner
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5/6/2009